

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token
Collectors Organization

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eBay Etiquette

by "captainrich"



It's easy to complain about obvious seller-related problems occasionally encountered on the on-line auction site www.ebay.com, such as fraudulent sales of non-existent or counterfeit items; but it's the everyday annoyances that prove most frustrating and time-consuming. Below is a 'top ten' list (in no particular order) of things that tick me off as I surf the eBay website:

1. Spam Sellers – These are the sellers who regularly list dozens of similar items each and every day, even though the items never seem to sell. Have you ever performed a search for a specific item and ended up generating pages of hits for unwanted items such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Mardi Gras tokens? If so, then you understand how frustrating these sellers can be. And no, I haven't forgot about Hartzog... Counterstamps or countermarks are hard enough to search for without having to sift through his misleading catalog offerings.
2. Free Listing Junkies – Spam sellers and junk dealers love when eBay allows members to list items without charging a listing fee. You'll know when this occurs because your usual favorite searches will generate four times as many hits. The extra hits will be items that the sellers have either had trouble selling in the past, or are so worthless that the listing fee would typically eat up any profit made from the sale.
3. Vendio Users – Sellers who just can't get enough of paying extra fees will use an auction management service such as Vendio. Vendio may be convenient for sellers who don't have the time to contact or communicate with their customers, but the service is an added headache to buyers. Sellers promote that Vendio allows buyers to "check out" more quickly, but anyone who has ever had to fill in all the fields associated with Vendio's check out procedures knows the truth (Vendio asks for the same information that is automatically stored by eBay's Paypal service, but you cannot directly access the Paypal link until you first go through Vendio's exercise in redundancy).
4. S&H Secret Keepers – If shipping & handling fees are not mentioned in an auction listing, it's not because the seller forgot to include them. A seller must make a conscious effort to ignore the shipping and handling sections when he/she is in the process of posting an auction. Some sellers like to set S&H fees once they see what their items sell for. Other sellers are too cheap to buy **any** shipping materials and will exclusively charge buyers for Priority Mail (because the USPS supplies the Priority boxes for free), thus you'll pay almost \$4 for shipping to get your dime-sized token in a big box filled with newspapers. Its good practice to always email such secretive sellers to get an S&H quote (even if you're not interested in bidding on the item). ;)

5. Ridiculous 'Buy it Now' Offers – A common Hard Times token was recently offered on eBay with a reasonable opening bid, but with an accompanying 'Buy it Now' offer of \$4,000. Such sellers are fishing for a 'Buy it Now' sucker or they're trying to imply that the opening bid is the bargain of the century. If the auction does not have a Reserve price set, it is possible to eliminate the 'Buy it Now' option from the auction by placing the opening bid - but who wants to risk buying something from a seller who uses such tactics?
6. Lazy Listers – There's nothing quite like opening an auction that's only partially completed. Some sellers will list scores of auctions at once with a notice that the images will be added later, but the images never do get posted. Others will provide only a fuzzy digital image with no description other than what was in the title of the auction. But my favorites are the sellers who list encased cents with only one image - and that image is the side featuring the stock design.
7. Pseudo Image Enlargements – When sellers use an auction management service to create their listings, the image enhancement tools are not the same quality as those featured in auctions that are created directly through eBay. It is quite annoying when you click on an image in order to enlarge it and your browser opens up a new window that includes advertisements and a *smaller* image.
8. Flashy Backgrounds – Do sellers not realize that it is difficult to read black-font text against a dark or heavily-patterned background? And its not fun waiting for an image to load because the seller has flooded the page with large personalized banners and other unrelated images (like pictures of their pets).
9. Purposely Vague Descriptions – Sellers claiming ignorance about the value of items they supposedly obtained through an estate sale or from their recently deceased grandfather. This is a ploy to get a less-knowledgeable collector to buy something that he/she thinks might be a great find. And do you know who the worst offender of this type of vague listing is? Unfortunately, it's the Pennsylvania Treasury. Hafer's hacks consistently list groupings of garbage where the images are so small that nothing can be seen and the descriptions are just detailed enough to make a novice think that the lot might be some drug dealer's confiscated cache of rare stolen coins.
10. Live Auctions – Unless you're participating in Live Auctions as a substitute for sending in a regular Mail Bid before an auction begins, these Live Auctions are a monumental waste of time. Such Live Auctions rarely start on time and you're never really sure whether the feature is working correctly. You can wait hours for the lot you're interested in to come up for bid; and then when it does, the bidding is over before you know what happened. It's like going to an auction in a dark room and having the auctioneer turn the lights on for a few seconds for each lot. In reality, Live Auctions are just an avenue for large auction firms to advertise their catalog offerings (much like the so-called "auctions" of real estate listed on eBay).

-- Because eBay has become such a major influence in the exonomia community, the PATCO Journal will try to visit the subject more often in future issues. --

TUFF STUFF



LOCOCO'S MARKET, N.S.

I came across a token from a store that my wife's cousins were familiar with during their youth. They didn't recall any tokens, but went to this local store nearly every day. It was in the lower North Side between the river and what is now the primary business district on East Ohio Street. Prior to there being an actual market, Michael Lococo sold fruit as a peddler; but in 1916 he resided and sold from 1517 Monterey Street in Allegheny. After two years, he dropped from the local scene and then reappeared in 1921, living and selling at the old address. From 1923 through 1927 Michael and various members of his family operated a fruit market which later blossomed into a corner grocery. Florence, Marian, and Joseph Lococo worked as clerks in the market during these years. It could not be determined if these were his children or extended family. In 1940 Frank was the manager, while Joseph, Thomas, and Anthony were clerks within the business and household. The 1946 directory showed that Frank and Anthony were the owners while Thomas and Lena were clerks. It was shown in the 1950 city directory that Anthony was now running the business. He continued to run the market as a full scale shop including groceries and meats. At this same time, cousins, Joseph and Frank Indovino were operating a beer distributorship at 1520 Monterey Street, and did so until at least 1965. The reverse of the token shows that it was used as a bottle deposit check. Michael, who began the store in 1916, was still living at that address as late as 1955. Between 1961 and 1965 Anthony died. His widow was living there, but the market was no longer open.

Brass-Rd-25mm

MRS. J. DAILEY

Some of the more uncommon tokens are those of women merchants, especially when the word Miss or Mrs. actually appears on the token. John Dailey was first listed as a laborer in the Pittsburgh city directory of 1908 and 1909. He was living at 58 Strauss Street in 1910, which is the North Side address on the token. The following year John and Anna have their initial listing as grocers. In 1912 the grocery business does not appear, but this may have been an oversight because the business listing returns in 1913, and remains through 1916. In the subsequent three years John is listed as a grocer at a new address of 2404 Strauss Street. Anna becomes a widow by 1920, and continues in the grocery business with John Jr. as a clerk. The son took over the grocery in 1922 but only operated it for that year. He remained living at the same address while working as a laborer for the next three years. Neither mother nor son was ever again listed as a grocer. Based on evidence this token was struck between 1910 and 1916.

Aluminum-Rd-21mm

The following letter was discovered in the effects of a noted token collector who passed away about two years ago. It shows how little items of interest fall through the cracks, and are lost for all time. Do you feel items like this should be classified and listed in books covering the subject matter? It should also be noted that this information was added to page 479 of the Atwood book owned by Ray Byrne, another renowned area token collector who probably got a set of tokens from the author of the letter.

August 14, 1970

Mr. Duane H. F-----
P. O. Box -----
Palo Alto, CA -----

Dear Duane,

I thought the enclosed story and token would be of interest to you.

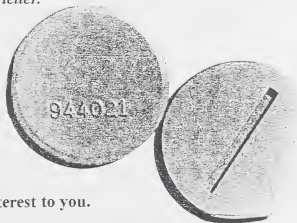
My brother-in-law who is a member of the school board, Latrobe, Pa. told it to me and gave me the tokens.

The token was used in Latrobe, Pa., a town of about 23,000 population, and was in effect between Sept. 1, 1966 and Sept. 1, 1967. After that a paper ticket was used. It was used in what is called the "Greater Latrobe School District" and comprises about 6,000 students. The token is brass, all numbered 944021, and has a slot on the reverse. This was manufactured by the Fullman Manuf. Co., Latrobe, Pa., and really is an unthreaded brass top for an electric circuit floor box. Four (4) colors were used, namely; green blue, pink and brown. The color distinguished the geographical section of town the student came from, and the bus would only pick up his particular color. The Fullman Mfg. Co. made the tokens for free and about 4,000 were manufactured. The Bell-Met 3 Inc., Latrobe, Pa. enameled them at a set price. Only children who were bussed received them. This token system lasted one year because the cost of painting them was too high for the school's budget.

Interesting-----.

Best regards,

R. J. H-----, M.D.



SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
FEDERATION, G.A.

G. A. / FEDERATION / WALDORF / PARK
GOOD / FOR 10C / IN TRADE
PBK 22 R
T001181

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
HEFFERMAN AND KENNEDY
HEFFERMAN / AND / KENNEDY
GOOD FOR / 5C / IN MERCHANDISE
A 21 8
T011683 IK01324

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
TONY'S BAR & GRILL
TONY'S / BAR & / GRILL
GOOD / FOR 10C / IN / TRADE
PBE 23 SQ
T005636

SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA
ZAVARICK'S CAFE
ZAVARICK'S CAFE
10 / C / IN TRADE
A 25 R
T003748

SHARPSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
L. O. O. M. 0157
L. O. O. M. / 157
GOOD FOR / 25 / IN TRADE
A 28 R
A001063 IK01127

SHREWBURY, PENNSYLVANIA
SHREWBURY RESTAURANT
SHREWBURY (SHREWSBURY?) / RESTAURANT /
ON / THE / SQUARE
GOOD FOR / 5C / IN TRADE
A 21 R
T004187

SMITHFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA (TAMS)
ALCO STORE, AT
AT / ALCO / STORE
GOOD FOR / 1c / IN MERCHANDISE
B 21 R
MDT00365 T000667 A000355 IK00282 M00671

SPRING HOUSE, PENNSYLVANIA
WITCHWOOD FARM
WITCHWOOD FARM
GOOD FOR / 5 C / MILK / OR / CREAM
A 26 SQ / A 24 R
REITER A002603

STEELTON, PENNSYLVANIA
HARTMAN, W.H.
STEELTON STEAM / BAKERY / W. H. HARTMAN
GOOD FOR / 5 / IN MERCHANDISE
A 26 R

T004648

SUMMIT, MILLS, PENNSYLVANIA POSSIBLE
LOUISIANA (LALC2) (DUG AT FIELDS)
WILLIAMS & CO, D.J.
D. J. WILLIAMS & CO (I) / GOOD FOR / \$1 IN
MDSE. / SUMMIT MILLS (I)
(UNIFACE)
B 34 R
A002238 A002996 LALC2

SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA
REED, BILL
SANBURY / INN / BILL REED. / PROP.
GOOD FOR / 10C / IN TRADE
A 26 R
T001295

SWISSVALE, PENNSYLVANIA
SWISSVALE VILLAGE DAIRY INC.
QUALITY LUNCH MEATS & DAIRY PRODUCTS /
SWISSVALE / VILLAGE / DAIRY / INC.
FOOD STAMP CREDIT / 1 C / IN ELIGIBLE FOODS
(ALSO 5C, 10C, 25C, 50C)
PVARIOUS 29 R
REITER

TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA
FRIENDLY TAVERN
FRIENDLY / TAVERN / * / TAYLOR
GOOD FOR / 10C / IN TRADE
A 22 8
T001645

TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
TITUSVILLE DAIRY PRODUCTS CO.
TITUSVILLE / DAIRY / PRODUCTS CO.
GOOD FOR / 5 C / WHEN RETURNED / WITH OUR
BOTTLE
FRD 29 8S
REITER

TOWANDA (?), PENNSYLVANIA
BRADFORD CO. DAIRY
BRADFORD / CO. / DAIRY
GOOD FOR / PINT / MILK
A 25 R
REITER

TYRONE, PENNSYLVANIA
EINTRACHT, THE
THE EINTRACHT
GOOD FOR / 10 / CENTS AT THE BAR
A 25 R
T003112

UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
CARTER ICE CREAM CO.
CARTER ICE CREAM CO. (HEART C/O)
GOOD FOR 5 C ON RETURN OF MY BOTTLE
A 29 8S
T009045

PATCO SWAP & MEETING

Saturday, August 14, 2004

A PATCO club meeting and swap will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Pittsburgh Expomart in Monroeville, PA (near the Monroeville Mall), along Business Route 22.

The PATCO meeting is being held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) Show. Look for signs near the bourse floor to direct you to the PATCO meeting area.

To gain access to Route 22 in Monroeville - Take Exit 6 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Route 76), or take the Penn-Lincoln Parkway East (Rte 365) from Pittsburgh.